



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,
United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008

2 Bemidji residents sentenced for committing bank fraud

The second of two Bemidji residents was sentenced yesterday to 33 months in prison for committing bank fraud and for theft of government property.

United States District Court Judge Joan Ericksen also sentenced Monica Ann Spencer, 33, to five years of supervised release Aug. 5 in Minneapolis on one count of aiding and abetting bank fraud and one count of theft of government property. Spencer pleaded guilty on Feb. 1, and was indicted, along with Sean David Adams, on Dec. 11, 2007.

Adams, 29, was sentenced to 48 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of aiding and abetting bank fraud and one count of aggravated identity theft by Judge Ericksen on June 12, and was ordered to pay \$5,504.96 in restitution. He also pleaded guilty on Feb. 1.

According to their respective plea agreements, the two did execute and attempt to execute a scheme to defraud Washington Mutual Bank in August 2007. The purpose of the scheme was to obtain money from the bank by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, specifically by forging the signatures of another person on a credit card "cash advance check" drawn from the bank and cashed at a grocery store in the amount of \$155.49.

Both Adams and Spencer admitted that they were responsible for the fraudulent negotiation of a number of additional checks totaling \$15,485.67.

Adams admitted that on Aug. 28, 2007, he used without lawful authority a means of identification of another person during and in relation to the bank fraud. Specifically, Adams submitted an online application with a credit card company in the victim's name.

Spencer admitted that from June 2007 to September 2007 she stole approximately \$7,043 worth of computers and computer accessories belonging to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

This case was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of

Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney LeeAnn K. Bell.